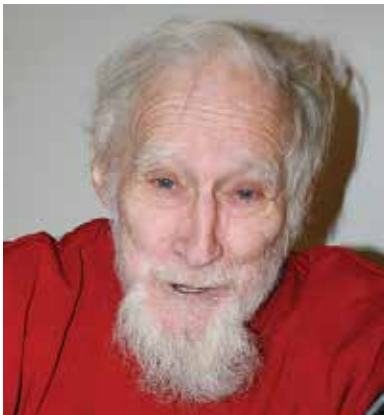




Holiday lights are everywhere, as our photo collage on page 9 will attest.



Yes, Jim Sporey is back on the front page, and we're glad to have him back. A very Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday to all.



It's Name the Santas time again on page 11.



David Morgal and Jeff Eck of UMCVFD are collecting toys. Learn how you can donate toys in Tidbits on page 12.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

December 13, 2013

Volume X, Number 18

A New Poolesville Mini-Mart?

By Rande Davis

J.P. Property Investments, LLC, owner of Poolesville Plaza, submitted an application with a site plan to build out a facility suitable for a small grocery or mini-mart store to the town Planning Commission on December 11. The 2,700-square-foot lot is to the right of the former Selby's Market. The Planning Commission approved the application unanimously. With Tractor Supply Company moving forward with its lease for the former supermarket location, the developer plans to target potential grocery store retailers for the smaller venue. After two years, all efforts to find a supermarket company to replace the entire Selby's location proved unsuccessful.

Town government officials anticipate that, through the combined efforts of the plaza landlord and the recently-hired Rockville marketing consultant firm, Van



Poolesville employees and volunteers met to discuss the town's economic future, including the need for a new grocery.

Eperen and Company, a grocer will be found to provide a vital service to the town.

At a December 5 meeting held in the model home at Brightwell Crossing, Van Eperen and Company hosted a three-hour strategy session with Poolesville town committee leadership and department heads along with representatives of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce. The objective of the meeting, run by Steve Simon,

vice president of Van Eperen, was for town leadership to provide insight into the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and economic threats to the town. From this information, the marketing firm will develop the marketing tools necessary to sell the economic opportunity in Poolesville to a variety of potential firms.

This strategy session

-Continued on Page 16.

Gas Line Rupture Brings Massive Fire Department Response

By Rande Davis

At around 9:00 a.m. on December 5, more than a dozen fire department and emergency vehicles from various Upcounty fire departments rushed to Poolesville as a precaution when town crews accidentally ruptured a gas line in the parking lot of the Meadow Valley townhomes in the 19600 block of Wootton Avenue.

Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Chief Mike White told the *Monocle* that any time there is a gas main break, it requires a full assignment of emergency responders which includes five engines, two water trucks, EMS crew and ambulances, command vehicles, and HazMat vehicles to monitor gas leak levels. In this instance, crews and vehicles from seven different departments also responded resulting in "forty boots on the



Town Manager Wade Yost and firefighters at the site of a recent gas leak.

-Continued on Page 18.

Family Album



Ladies of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary served up their popular Santa Claus breakfast at the fire hall.



Vikki Clayton, a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, and Sarah Colvin, who spent time as a seminarian at St. Peter's, were ordained as deacons in the Episcopal Church by Bishop Marianne Budde at the Church of the Epiphany in downtown Washington, D.C.



Spencer Schmidt (right) presents picture to Nettie LaMaster. From left, Jan Schmidt and Odd Fellow Grand Noble Rich Norwood.



Friends of the Odd Fellows and guests at their annual holiday party are Rosy Swain, Grand Noble King David Swain, Chris Poole, Bill Poole (seated), Ginnie Saver, and Roy Johnson.



Santa Claus greets Jenna and Jesse Rothenberg at the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department.



Barbara and David Weitzer had their holiday portrait taken by Hilary Schwab at the Blue Hearth in Poolesville.

Business Briefs

CNS Selected as a Great Place to Work

Corporate Network Services (CNS) is proud to announce that they have been selected as one of *The Washingtonian's* 50 Great Places to Work.

This year's fifty winning workplaces were chosen on the basis of such measures as: generous pay and benefits, challenging and interesting work, great work/life balance, opportunities to learn and grow, financial stability, commitment to charity and community, and the recognition and respect given to employees.

Winners were chosen after a panel of editors reviewed more than two hundred companies and some thirteen thousand employee surveys. The final determinations relied heavily on the scores given by each company's employees.

CNS attended the Great Places to Work breakfast with the other winners on Friday, November 22 at the Mayflower Renaissance Washington, D.C. Hotel.

Lee Recognized by Gazette

The *Gazette* just published its second annual end-of-the-year special insert called Best of Montgomery. Each summer, readers are asked to nominate their favorite businesses in over fifty categories. This year, Poolesville's Gail Lee took third place in the countywide vote. Way to go, Gail, it must feel good to go from Biggest Loser to Winner. Oh, and just in case any of our readers missed our point, Gail and her daughter Lauren teamed up on NBC's "Biggest Loser" reality show last year.

Legal Eagles Rising Stars

Local resident and attorney Karen Alegi and her law partner Jodi Anderson have been named 2014 Rising Stars by *Super Lawyers Magazine*. This is Jodi's second year on the annual list and Karen's third. No more than 2.5 percent of lawyers in the state are named to the Rising Stars list.

Super Lawyers Magazine features profiles of selected attorneys and is distributed to attorneys in the

state or region and the ABA-accredited law school libraries. *Super Lawyers* is also published as a special section in leading city and regional magazines across the country. *Super Lawyers* selects attorneys using a patented multiphase selection process. Peer nominations and evaluations are combined with third-party research. Each candidate is evaluated on twelve indicators of peer recognition and professional achievement. Selections are made on an annual, state-by-state basis.

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Karen Alegi

Wishing you and your family
a happy and healthy holiday season!

Jodi Anderson

Jodi & Karen have been named 'Rising Stars' by *Super Lawyers Magazine*.

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- ◆ Cherry Blossoms/Museums—Wash., DC
- ◆ Shop/wager-MD Live!—Arundel Mills Mall
- ◆ Air & Space Wonders—Smithsonian/Dulles
- ◆ Pearl on the Bay—Historic Annapolis

Next event: Jan 22nd - 1:00 pm at Town Hall on *Wills & Trusts*

Send us your email, phone, and mailing address to
info@seniorgatheringplace.org

19520 Darnestown Rd, Beallsville, MD 20839
 Or call: 240-812-2368

Commentary

Ire

By John Clayton

If it weren't for the Poolesville Facebook page, I would not be aware of the fact that a photo radar booth in Dickerson got knocked on its bionic keister late last month. It was duly photographed for social media, as is the custom in this glorious age in which we live, and yes, even a biweekly powerhouse like the *Monocacy Monocle* couldn't beat Facebook to the story, which does appear in this issue.

I have determined that there are at least two ways to garner almost unanimous sentiments on Facebook. One might be, "Boy, that Obamacare program is sure slick, LOL," and the other might be, "Someone knocked over a photo radar booth in Dickerson. Whoop-ee!!" When last I looked, there were forty-three likes and forty-two comments—not too shabby for our modest but chatty population of Facebook enthusiasts. Some of the posts were clever, like the one about mobile cameras that jump into the road like deer, but overwhelmingly the sentiment was a collegial, irreverent take on the unpopularity of speed cameras. One brave soul, while acknowledging the amusement value of Big Brother getting a black eye (my words, not hers), did note that one only has to fear speed cameras when going at least twelve miles over the posted speed limit. One poster ranted about all the money the county was making, another ranted about all the money the contractor was making. Could they both be making all that money?

I get it. Why would speed cameras and forty-dollar fines be popular? One has to be some kind of dork to walk around saying, "Annoying, yes, but for our own good." It's much more satisfying and even a little provocative, to hear the echo of Robin Hood bravely thwarting the evil machines of the Sheriff of Nottingham. People don't like human speed traps either. Don't police have anything better to do? Shouldn't they be out catching crooks? I'll bet they have a quota

because the county/town/state/Affordable Care Act needs the money. Therein, lies the most injured gripe of all: Those son-of-a-guns don't do it for safety, they do it for the money.

While there's no doubt in my mind they're doing it for the money, I don't think they're lining their own pockets, like Metro parking lot attendants did, until they got caught. Speed camera fines are just another tax. The Supreme Court says the foundation of Obamacare (can't get away from it) is a tax, and that's okay. This is a tax on speeding: no points, no record, no stigma, just forty bucks to Big Brother for the privilege. If you really, really can't drive through residential areas, school zones, and construction zones without exceeding the posted speed limit by twelve miles per hour, then pay your tax, and then, yes, since you live in a free country, you can celebrate the destruction of public property online without going to a labor camp. This isn't China.

One amusing note, as reported in our article by Jack Toomey, was that Chuck Stump, an elected commissioner for the Town of Poolesville, chimed in with his own irreverent quip and has since apologized as having perhaps allowed his sense of humor to represent a position inappropriate for a responsible public official. Chuck, you have followed the script for public officials tripped up by their sense of humor quite admirably—but cheer up, in the annals of politicians whose sense of humor has risen up and bitten them in the media, yours will not be long remembered. I offer for comparison: Ronald Reagan and "we start bombing in five minutes," which worked, versus John Kerry's clumsy attempt to lampoon George W. Bush where he inadvertently insulted our combat troops in Iraq, which did not. Then there's another all-time favorite when a live mic caught Bush disparaging a reporter as a "major league [unprintable word beginning with A]," to which Cheney remarked famously, "Yeah, he is, big time."

Keep up the good work, Chuck. The news can get pretty dry, sometimes. We need all the help we can get.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

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Commentary

In Defense of Common Sense

By Pamela Boe

Recently I attended an honor roll ceremony at John Poole Middle School. After I entered the office to receive a Visitor sticker, I waited in line behind other parents who now had to swipe their driver's licenses to receive the sticker. This made it more difficult for me to advance in line because I was now dragging my jaw, which had dropped to the floor, alongside me.

ID swiping is a continuation of a troubling trend in the nation's school systems. Last year, Monocacy Elementary installed a locked door/buzzer system. Mind you, they'll unlock to anyone who pushes the buzzer, but, by golly, there is a buzzer/locked door system in place.

"What is the point of this?" I asked a parent.

"To keep us safe," she responded.

How is this keeping us safe? Any shooter/bomber/kidnapper that comes along has a suicide intent. He won't stop for a visitor sticker before he takes his weapon of choice and executes his evil plan. What a ridiculous notion. It does, however, create yet another hoop for good, law-abiding parents to jump through to get into the very school system that is funded by their money.

Let's try to follow this logic anyways. Say we lock the doors, and a person with evil intent buzzes the buzzer and gains access. Let's say he swipes his driver's license and is given the sticker. Let's say we have even installed a metal detector and he passes through that. Does that make us safe?

There are many other weapons and ways to hurt people than using a gun, and if someone truly has evil intent, he will find a way.

Freedom is the ability to live life unhindered. Freedom is not found in locked doors. It is not found in buzzers, or metal detectors. All of those things are Orwellian at best. They bind the free and do so under the auspices of Protection.

What these obstacles do achieve is this: They teach kids a corrupt definition of the very notion of Freedom; instead of promoting self-reliance and the strength of confidence, they promote anxiety and doubt—spending eight hours a day in a locked building is the very essence of living in fear; they attempt to promote a dangerously-false sense of security; and they illustrate half-hazard problem solving. Obviously, no one considered the logical fact that a gunman, or pressure-cooker-bearing bomber, would not be stopped by a driver's license swipe.

"You can't change the system, even if it doesn't work," another parent commented.

I disagree. You have to try. It matters. Without making your kids truly safer, MCPS has wasted your money (money that could have gone to Promethean boards, or teachers' salaries, or to hire more teachers and lower the classroom child/teacher ratios) on an ineffective system, and in the process, replaced common sense with Fear. Actions like locking down our schools to deter the Bad Guy, effectively erode liberties for the Good Guys. They grow suspicion and distrust of the common man. They nurture terror. Understand this: There cannot be free thinking, freedom of expression, or even simple joy where there is fear. Is that what you want for your kids?

Freedom comes with inherent risk. Freedom is not secure. The school board's intent was good at the outset, but efforts to mitigate potential future assaults were poorly thought out, ultimately making our schools less than what they used to be.

What we need to be teaching our children is that Freedom is not guaranteed, which is why it is so precious. It is not safe or indestructible. It is not something to be taken for granted or to passively allow to be eroded. It is chance, and risk, and opportunity. It is liberty and danger, simultaneously.

Where is the common sense? Who has the courage, the strength of character, to turn these decisions around in defense of reason? Who within the system will have the courage to stand up and say, "Enough."

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 15000 block of Clopper Road.

Burglary: 22100 block of Dickerson Road.

Theft of vehicle: 17600 block of Kohlhoss Road.

Theft from vehicle: 17100 block of Hoskinson Road, 20400 block of White's Ferry Road.

Theft: 17900 block of Bliss Drive, 19600 block of Beallsville Road, 20900 block of Big Woods Road.

Past Crime

December 16, 1955 A thirty-eight-year-old trash collector was convicted of accepting bets and running a numbers game. Judge Stedman Prescott sentenced the man to three years in prison and told him to "stay out of Montgomery County" upon release. Prescott went on to warn all gamblers that if they chose to come to the county that they would have to answer to him.

December 17, 1955 Four people were injured in a series of crashes on Route 28 near West Montgomery Avenue. Police said that an erratic driver had first sideswiped a car driven by County Manager Melvin Reese. It continued until it crossed the center of the road and struck a car containing three teenagers who were all seriously injured. The reckless driver, a Silver Spring man, was arrested and charged with a variety of offenses including drunk driving.

December 22, 1955 A sailor stationed at the Bethesda Naval Hospital was arrested by county police and charged with two rapes. One had happened on the grounds of the National Institutes of Health and the other in a Rockville neighborhood. In both cases, the twenty-one-year-old man had followed a woman walking alone.

December 23, 1955 Officers were called to a wooded area at Veirs Mill Road and Aspen Hill Road where they found an empty safe in the woods. Later in the

day, they traced it to the home of a liquor store owner who lived on West Beach Drive. The man said that someone had broken into his house, removed the safe containing \$1800, and then apparently discarded it in Montgomery County.

December 25, 1955 The Montgomery County Historical Society reported that someone had stolen twelve blue spruce trees from their Glenview Estate in Rockville. On Christmas Eve, a Historical Society employee saw a man digging up another tree and placing it in the trunk of his car. Police later arrested a Rockville man and charged him with the theft of all of the trees.

December 26, 1955 County detectives were looking for clues on a rural stretch of Club Hollow Road outside of Poolesville. Residents had reported that footprints had been left on their roofs the night before and that chimney soot had been deposited on their living room floors.

December 28, 1955 Montgomery County Police were investigating an arson fire that destroyed a two-story frame structure at Beallsville. Neighbors said that a car was seen at the house shortly before the fire was spotted.



Christmas Services

Children's Pageant
Tuesday, December 24
4 PM

Candlelight Service
Tuesday, December 24
10:30 PM

Christmas Day Service
Wednesday, December 25
10 AM

St. Peter's will be offering two quiet services on Sunday afternoon, December 22nd.

Episcopets 4 PM

If you or someone you know has lost a pet this year, please plan on joining us for a quiet time to remember them and all the love they shared as one of God's best gifts to us here on earth.

Bereaved Loved Ones 5 PM

The holidays can be hard if you or someone you know has lost a loved one. Sometimes, even after years have passed, the grief returns during this special season. Come spend an hour and lay your grief at the foot of the manger of the Christ Child in whom all our hope is born.



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- Ellen Williams

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Christmas Day	10:00 am	Christmas Mass



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Entertainment Schedule

December 19:

Andy Wescott and Michael Walker

December 20:

Chris Compton, Mindy Miller, and Dan Bourdeaux

December 21:

Lunch Buffet - Noon to 4:00 p.m.

January 31: NEW YEAR'S EVE

Kelsey Siegel and Karaoke Night

Every Tuesday is Darts Night

Every Wednesday is Trivia Night with DJ

Every Thursday is Open Mic Night

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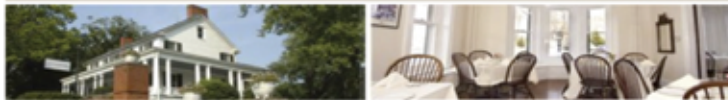
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School News

PHS Seeks Local Engineers to Mentor Students

Project Lead the Way (PLTW), the Poolesville High School engineering curriculum, is looking for a few good engineers to be technical mentors in a work-shadow program with the senior design students. This Job Shadowing Program is a hands-on project-based program that provides the students with a technical foundation through an involved network of teachers, mentors, and students known as the Partnership Team.

PLTW is designed to introduce students to various engineering disciplines (mechanical, electrical, civil, materials, software, architecture, etc.) and promote critical thinking along with developing problem-solving skills.

One of the goals of the

partnership team is to develop essential connections in the local business community.

Job shadowing is a great way for these students to learn more about a particular field of work by observing the day-to-day activities of someone in the engineering field. Most shadows involve spending a full day or part of a day with a mentor at his or her place of work. Shadows also give students an opportunity to ask specific questions they may have about a particular field of work. Job shadowing is particularly useful for students who are undecided about their college major or potential career options.

If you are an engineer or work in the technology industry, please consider becoming a job shadow mentor for one of the twenty-five interested seniors during the December-through-March timeframe. If you are interested, please contact Kevin Carmack at kevin.k.carmack@nasa.gov.

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Things to Do

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings in Poolesville

Tuesdays: Poolesville Presbyterian Church, 8:30 p.m.; Thursdays: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 8:30 p.m.

December 13, 14, and 15

Countryside Artisans Tour

Fourteen artisans and crafters and an award-winning vineyard open their studios and places for a self-guided tour. Get details and maps at www.countryside-artisans.com

Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

December 14

A Christmas Carol

Hope Garden Ballet Children's Theatre presents Dickens's classic, *A Christmas Carol*, as an original ballet by artistic director and choreographer Fran Ichijo. Matinee: 2:00 p.m.; Evening: 7:00

p.m. PHS Auditorium, Adults: \$14.00, Youth \$11.00.

Breakfast with St. Nicholas

Pancake breakfast, crafts, and games and a special visitor. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Small suggested donation. 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

December 17

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser to Benefit JPMS Phantom Players

The members of the middle school drama club will be gift-wrapping Christmas presents. Donations welcome. The Old Town Hall Bank Museum and Exhibit Center
Noon to 4:00 pm.

Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: Open Mic with John Mobley and the Cousin John Band
8:30 p.m.

December 18

Cugini's Entertainment Night

2nd Annual Ugly Holiday Sweater Night Contest. Wear your ugliest winter sweater and possibly win

prizes.
8:30 pm.

December 19

Cugini's Entertainment Night

Wagon Ride through Poolesville to see Christmas lights with stops at Bassett's and AHOP. Fund-raiser for WUMCO. 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 pm.

AHOP Entertainment Night

Featuring: Andy Wescott and Michael Walker
8:30 p.m.

December 20

AHOP Entertainment Night

Featuring: Chris Compton, Mindy Miller, and Dan Bourdeaux
8:30 p.m.

December 22

Santa Rides through Poolesville

Santa rides a fire truck through the streets of Poolesville. His ride begins at 6:00 p.m. Wait for the sound of music and flashing fire truck lights to know he is in your neighborhood. Santa asks that all kids and parents remain safely on

sidewalks. He welcomes cookies for himself and his firefighter elves.

January 31

AHOP New Year's Celebration

Featuring: Kelsey Siegel
8:30 p.m.

Cugini's Entertainment Night

New Year's Eve Party with lots of special drinks
9:00 p.m.



Name the Santas

Answers on page 18



Tidbits

Double the Value of Helping the Gathering Place Senior Organization

The Steering Committee of the Gathering Place Senior Organization is grateful to donors who responded to a recent mailing to area residents. The organization has a special donor who is matching every gift dollar for dollar up to \$5,000. Naturally, they are encouraging everyone to send in

their donations now.

The donations will help them continue providing programs for senior citizens in the coming months. Be sure to watch the *Monocle* for upcoming announcements or visit www.seniorgatheringplace.org. Remember, donations can be tax deductible. Mail your gift to: The Gathering Place, c/o Am Kolel, 19520 Darnestown Road, Beallsville, MD 20839

St. Peter's Thanked for All They Do for Girls Scouts

The Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital presented Rev. Kimberly L. Still, rector of St. Peter's Parish, a plaque of appreciation for the support and service provided by the church to the local



St. Peter's Episcopal Church received a plaque for its support of the local Girl Scout program: Marilyn Mense, Service Unit Manager, Mother Kimberly of St. Peter', and Dawn Albert and Laurie Hundertmark, co-Recognition Chairs.

Girl Scout troops.

Santa Needs Your Help

It's not too late to offer toys to children in need this holiday season. If you prefer to give a toy for a child living locally, you can drop the new toy off at Poolesville Town Hall or any of the area churches. You can also help the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department's support of the Marine Corps's Toys for Tots program by placing a new toy in any of their boxes around town or at the fire department in Beallsville.

Soldiering on for the Soldiers

At a November preparation meeting of the Poolesville Military Support Group (PMSG) held at Bassett's Restaurant, volunteer Tim Flynn was awarded a special plaque recognizing his hard work and dedication as a volunteer for the group over many years. Organization leader Carl Hobbs, in presenting the award, noted that the annual picnic and outing for wounded warriors and fundraiser for the Fisher House Foundation

would not be successful without the kind of help Flynn provides every year.

The 2014 PMSG is scheduled for June 14, and the committee welcomes all who want to help. For more information, call Carl at 301-972-1116.

Former Local Author Hits New York Times and USA Today Lists

Have No Shame, by former Boyds resident, Melissa Foster, hit the *New York Times* (number fifteen on December 1) and *USA Today* (number sixty on November 21) bestseller lists.

Foster, now a resident of Williamsport, Maryland, has published a total of fourteen books, several of which have won multiple awards. She is currently one of Amazon's top one hundred authors, out of over one million.

Foster writes contemporary romance, contemporary women's fiction, new adult, romantic suspense, thrillers, and historical fiction. Her books have been recommended by *USA Today's* book blog, *Hagerstown Magazine*, *The Patriot*, and several other print venues. She is the founder of the Women's Nest, a social and support community for women, and the World Literary Café. When she's not writing, Foster helps authors navigate the publishing industry through her author training programs on Fostering Success.



Carl Hobbs (left) and Paul Kelly (right) give Tim Flynn a special award for his many years of helping the Poolesville Military Support Group.

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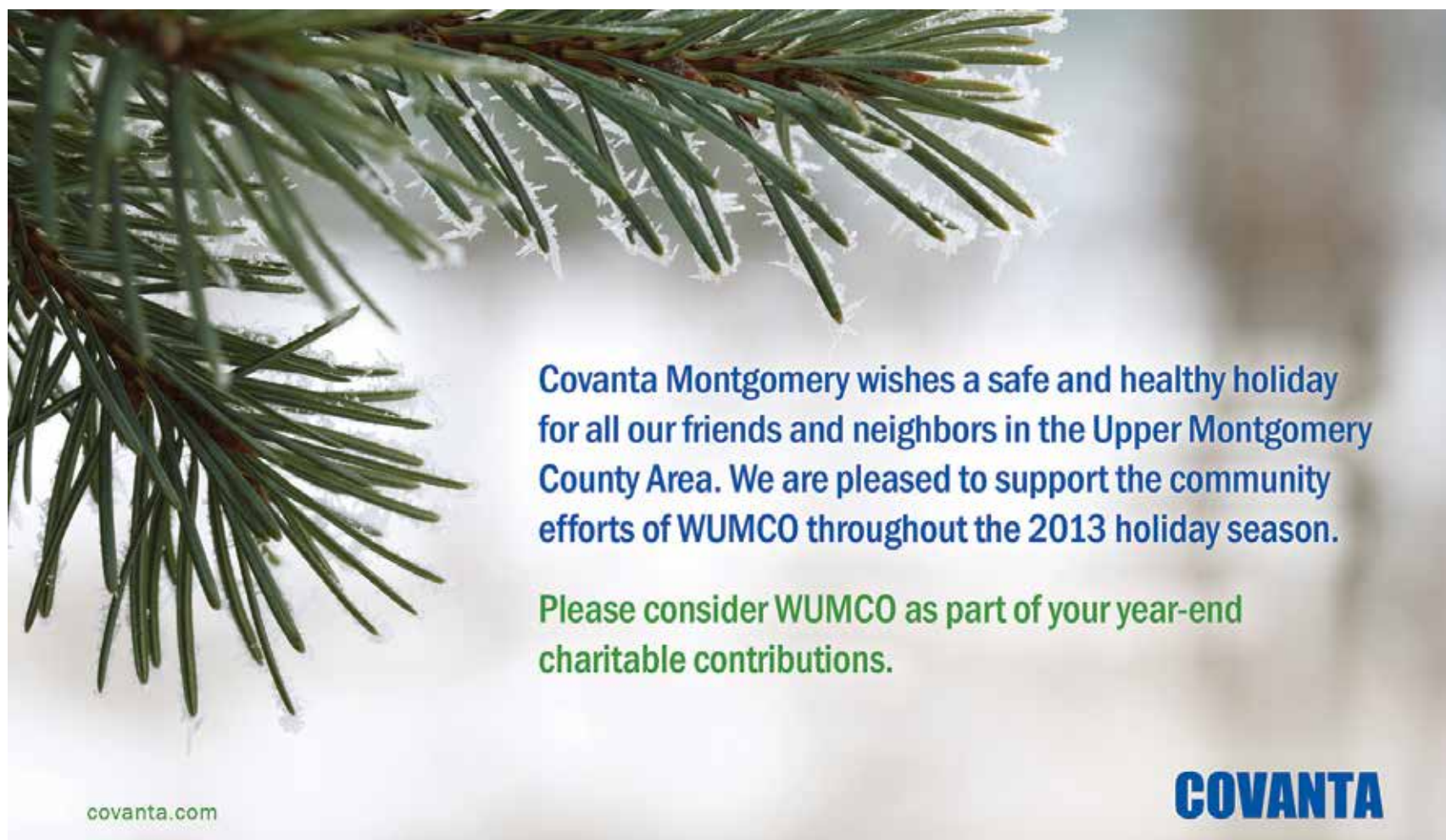
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Youth Sports

PHS Golf The Second Day Is Key—PHS Second in State

By Jeff Stuart

“Last year when we went to the states, we tried to play it like a pro tourney,” said Poolesville High School’s head golf coach, Dave Gillespie. “There you have to make the cut to play Saturday and Sunday. We fell just a little short then, but we made up for it this year.

It’s the first time in school history that we’ve ever had a state championship medal in golf. The goal was pretty high because we knew we had a talented senior group.” Poolesville (685) captured silver for 2A/1A, finishing second among nine teams. Howard County’s Marriotts Ridge High School finished first, scoring a total of 614. “We

wanted to give Marriotts Ridge, the defending champs, a scare,” said Coach Gillespie. “I’m very proud of everybody. It was our year. We were able to get it done, and it was great—absolutely.”

The first day of the state tournament was Tuesday, October 29 at the University of Maryland Golf Course. The team became the first in Poolesville history to qualify for the second round on Wednesday.

“Craig Morton was our best on the season,” said Gillespie. “He is a very reliable player.”

Andy Baker was co-captain with Morton this year. Craig, Andy, sophomore Rohit Mandavia, and Trevor Stottlemeyer were the four on the state team. Senior Mitchell Poe was also an important part of the team and competed in the district meet.

Whitney Carmack qualified on the girl’s side and made the cut and played the second day. She shot a total of 178.

Morton scored a team low 164 for the two days. Mandavia finished with 165. Rohit had the lowest first day score with an 81. Craig matched that 81 the second

day. Both came in with the goal of breaking 80, but neither was disappointed with their effort on a difficult course.

Gillespie’s squad was undefeated in the second-tier Kyle Division, finishing 18-0. “I like the sound of undefeated. We had more depth than any other team in the division,” Gillespie said.

Morton finished fourth in the Kyle with a 39.83 average for nine holes. Mandavia had a 40.8, Baker 41.83, Stottlemeyer 43.83, and Poe 46.25. Carmack’s average was 47.40.

The team qualified for states by scoring 331 at the district meet at Poolesville Golf Course on October 7. Mandavia was low man with 81. They were district champions. Carmack qualified for the girls’ state tournament at the Laytonsville Golf Course on October 9, shooting 90, under the girls’ cut of 93. She improved ten strokes over last year.

“They enjoyed going to practice and playing together and were very supportive of each other throughout this whole campaign,” said Gillespie. “There was a very

strong commitment to improving their game. Craig Morton, especially, competed in a lot of tournaments this summer. Whitney learned the game from her parents. She is always out there taking lessons.” Craig, Trevor, Mitchell, and Whitney are playing basketball during the spring season and do not play golf year-round like some of their competition in the county.

“We are being moved up to the Yachmetz Division next year,” added Coach Gillespie. “We felt like we belonged. We felt that we earned the right to be there, but now that we have qualified for the Yachmetz, which is the top division, we have six of our best players leaving.”

Gillespie saw that next year would be a rebuilding year, so he did not cut any players this year. He wanted a developmental team to practice with and learn from the seasoned golfers. Hopefully, a tradition has been established, and the steady, consistent play of the departing seniors will leave a legacy, and PHS golfers will be playing on the second day again soon.



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December 18: 2nd Annual Ugly Sweater Party. Break out those ugly sweaters and join in the great fun. Expect lots of drink specials.

December 19: Holiday Wagon Ride - Come to Cugini's and hop on our wagon for a ride through the neighborhood to see the Christmas lights with a stop at AHOP and Bassett's for a drink before loading up and coming back to Cugini's. (This is an event for those who can be safe and responsible on a wagon and who will enjoy a peaceful ride through town). \$10 fee with \$5 going to WUMCO and \$5 toward your first drink. From 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

December 24 and 25: Cugini's closed

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Local News

Dickerson Speed Camera Damaged Again - Some Residents Express Approval

By Jack Toomey

On the evening of November 23, Beallsville resident Hunt Miller was driving on Route 28 in Frederick County when he came upon a large rectangular metal box lying in the roadway. He stopped, moved the box out of the road with the help of another passerby, took a photo, and left. The next day he posted the photo online in the Poolesville Community Facebook Group. Commenters immediately identified the object as one of the Dickerson

speed cameras. Miller later said, "It was in the lane going towards Dickerson. I thought to myself, someone is going to get killed."

Police spokesperson Corporal Rebecca Innocenti confirmed that at about 9:00 p.m. on the evening of November 23 the camera was stolen, located just inside Fredrick County, and was turned over to a police officer. She said that so far in 2013 there have been over fifty cases of serious vandalism to speed cameras in Montgomery County. An employee installing a new camera said that it had taken quite an effort for the vandals to unbolt the camera from its frame, then somehow attach a chain to it, and drag it west on Route 28.

As the days went by, a large number of Facebook users expressed their glee over the theft and destruction of the speed camera with statements such as, "That is so funny, just paid a ticket for that one, glad it's gone," "I want to shake that person's hand," "The Dickerson Speed Camera Bandits strike again," "Burst out laughing when I saw that," and in all caps and eschew-

ing spaces between words, "Ha ha ha." In all, over twenty-five area residents proclaimed approval of the incident. Yet a few had a different view. One commenter said, "Thanks for moving it out of the road," while another said, "Just curious, will our tax dollars pay for this? I am pretty sure that the cost will trickle down to us."

Two posts were especially notable. In the first, a woman warned, "[Commenter's name], delete your post, your wife witnessed a crime, and if the police read this they will contact her for a description of the perpetrator." A police officer who is not involved in the investigation was incredulous when told about the comment and remarked that it was an irresponsible thing to say.

In the second, Poolesville Town Commissioner Chuck Stump remarked in an online post, "One down; many yet to go." Stump was asked about his comment at a town meeting on

December 5 which prompted him to issue a statement the next day, "While I am not a fan of the county speed camera program, I do take seriously any citizen breaking the law and use of vandalism even to make a political point. My comment on Facebook was meant to be humorous."

Stump, who has been in office for three years, was interviewed by phone the next day and said, "It was just a joke. These [speed cameras] are not popular. From a personal standpoint, I think that the only reason [they exist] is to raise revenue."



Down but not out.

**"New Mini Mart" Continued
From Page 1.**

was the first of more to come. Currently, the town has launched a multi-faceted initiative which includes strengthening and building on the existing community events and festivals, development of a more attractive streetscape, rezoning changes that will be more conducive to bringing in businesses, and exploring partnerships with regional business and governmental entities for recreational and food hub opportunities.

These actions, designed to expand the economic vitality of the municipality, were begun earlier this year when the town contracted with Orion Ventures, whose CEO is former Montgomery County councilman Mike Knapp. Orion

Ventures's role is to identify key areas of economic opportunity and then build relationships to enhance the chances of success. Van Eperen and Company will be responsible for the marketing message and strategy to follow up on goals set by the town and Orion.

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"I want to thank the entire REMN team for their help. We are thrilled with our new home in Poolesville and grateful for your efforts." -Paul

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The Pulse

Bishop from Haiti Brings Greetings and Thanks

By Rande Davis

Bishop Joseph Gontrand Décoste of the Diocese of Jérémie, Haiti recently visited St. Mary's Church in Barnesville. He came with greetings and appreciation from the parishioners of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Carcasse, Haiti to the congregants of St. Mary's for the spiritual, volunteer, and financial support generously given by the Barnesville church since the winter of 2008.

The two churches have joined together as part of the Archdiocese of Washington's Twinning Program, whereby both parishes develop a sense of solidarity through efforts by members of St.



Deacon David Cahoon (center) and Father Kevin O'Reilly (right) welcome Bishop Gontrand Décoste upon his visit to St. Mary's from Haiti.

Mary's to assist St. Joseph's with time, talent, and financial aid.

Jack Reid returned from Haiti in the winter of 2008 with a challenge to his fellow members of St. Mary's to aid St. Joseph's. He told the *Monocle*, "You don't see the kind of poverty in America as you do in Haiti." Over the years, other members of St. Mary's have ventured to Haiti for the important purpose of building lasting relationships and learning more about the needs of the gracious

people of Haiti.

Since those early days, they have built a new school, provided loans to help startup small business ventures, provided medical aid including bringing in the first medical doctor to Carcasse, and they are currently seeking to build a new community center and rectory. The church serves and sells Just Haiti free-trade coffee as another way to help the local economy of Haitians.

"Gas Line Break" Continued

ground." White said the incident was fortunate as the humidity, temperature, and wind were just right, resulting in the gas venting vertically. Otherwise, if the gas had dispersed and migrated downward or horizontally into the townhomes, a pilot light or even a light switch could have ignited an explosion. "This particular break was of a two-inch main gas line, and the concentration was so dense it actually would be difficult to ignite. It's not until it begins to disperse that the danger gets greatest." While this was not a fire, it was still a major life safety issue, according to White, as the fire department stayed on hand for over three hours as they waited for Washington Gas to repair the leak.

The incident occurred when the town water department crew, using a backhoe to repair a water main leak, ruptured the gas main. Town Manager Wade Yost determined that, while proper protocol had been followed by the town crew calling Miss Utility in advance, the key error was made by the representatives of Miss Utility as they were nearly three and half feet off in their marking of the gas main line, resulting in the accident.

The town crew immediately called 911 and began evacuating the residents of the townhouses as the smell of the leak permeated the area. Natural gas is colorless and odorless, but mercaptan is added to serve as a warning when a leak occurs.

The repairs to the water and gas leak were completed later in the morning with no other problems or injuries to individuals.



Name the Santas

Suzanne Tallia Past PHS PTA Officer	Dee Turner JPMS Drama Club Director	Art Brown Franklin Press	Matt Markoff Calleva Outdoors
Hilary Schwab PACC President	Chuck Stump Commissioner	Marci Calantoni Town CEDC	Reva Hoewing Crafts A Plenty
George Coakley Planning Commission	Amanda Bochain Zaglio's Bakery	Lucy Lock PHS PTA President	Link Hoewing Former Commissioner
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Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

December 5, 1951 Tempers flared at a meeting of upper county farmers and the county council. The farmers' delegation was upset about proposed regulations concerning subdivision development in the upper section of Montgomery County. The disorder started when William Thompson, a Comus farmer, rose to make remarks. He was told that enough time had been given, and he was asked to sit down.

December 10, 1951 David Betts, the chairman of the Easter Seals Drive, announced that students at Poolesville High School would receive chest X-rays on January 4.

December 12, 1951 The Montgomery County School Board discussed the possibility of introducing corporal punishment in the schools. Dr. Edwin Broome, superintendent of schools, said that a little-known section of the law allowed corporal punishment, but, to his knowledge, it had not been used more than

"two or three times in the past ten years."

December 13, 1951 The Montgomery County Department of Public Works announced that the planting of sixteen thousand rosebushes along county roads would hopefully prevent soil erosion. In addition, they planted almost two thousand trees and cut down fifty-three elm trees that were victims of Dutch Elm disease.

December 18, 1951 Harold C. Smith of Hughes Road, Poolesville posted a note in the *Washington Post* inviting people to come to his property and take away "Christmas-sized evergreens" and other trees. Smith said that he was clearing the property and that he would burn or dispose of the trees unless they were claimed. He added that he would not charge but would accept donations for Children's Hospital.

December 19, 1951 A combination of snow, freezing rain, and then rain played havoc on area roads. Montgomery County school buses did not run, cutting attendance at

public schools by sixty-six percent.

December 22, 1951 Seven lawyers chipped in a total of \$26 so a thirty-seven-year-old Montgomery County man would not have to spend Christmas in jail. The attorneys were in court awaiting other cases when the man told the judge that he could not raise the \$26 fine that had been imposed. The attorneys then dug into their pockets, and the man was released.

December 25, 1951 Donations for the Charles Fowler family accumulated so fast that county police had to put a stop to it. Fowler, a fifty-dollar-a-week employee of the

county roads department, lost all of the family belongings, including Christmas gifts, in a fire which destroyed his Beallsville house a few days before. Five truckloads of toys, clothing, and other assorted goods were delivered to the Rockville Police Station on Christmas Eve. Jennie Marie Fowler, Charles's wife, suffered burns and later died at Suburban Hospital. The seven children were safe.

Information for this column was obtained from the archives of The Washington Post.



Flags were lowered In honor of:

November 22: President John Fitzgerald Kennedy on the fiftieth anniversary of his tragic assassination.

November 25: Eddie L. Gilyard, a twenty-five-year employee of the State Highway Administration, who died in the line of duty on November 14, 2013.

December 6: South Africa's Nelson Mandela until sunset on December 9.

Christmas Holiday Schedule



December 15th — Christmas Musical — 6:00 pm
December 24th — Candlelight Service — 7:00 pm

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- 7:00 p.m. – Candlelight Family Service
- 9:00 p.m. – Candlelight Traditional Service
- 11:00 p.m. – Candlelight Communion Service

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- + **Christmas Eve Services** – *Tuesday, December 24*
4:00 pm *Family-friendly Service*
8:00 pm *Traditional Service*
- + **Sunday Worship Schedule**
9:15 am *Sunday school for children and adults*
10:30 am *Worship Service*



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Cold Weather Pet Safety

Peter H. Eeg DVM - Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

(This is the first in a three part series on Cold Weather Information for You and Your Pet)

You're probably already aware of the risks posed by **warm weather** and leaving pets in hot cars but did you know that cold weather also poses serious threats to your pets' health?

Here are some tips to keep your pets safe during cold weather:

Winter wellness: Has your pet had his/her preventive care exam (wellness exam) yet? Cold weather may worsen some medical conditions such as arthritis. Your pet should be examined by a veterinarian at least once a year, and it's as good a time as any to get him/her checked out to make sure (s)he is ready and as healthy as possible for cold and slippery weather.

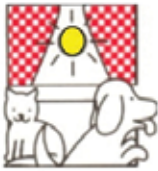
Know the limits: Just like people, pets' cold tolerance can vary from pet to pet based on their coat, body fat stores, activity level, and health. Be aware of your pet's tolerance for cold weather, and adjust accordingly. You will probably need to shorten your dog's walks in very cold weather to protect you both from weather-associated health risks. Arthritic and elderly pets may have more difficulty walking on snow and ice and may be more prone to slipping and falling. Longhaired or thick-coated dogs tend to be more cold tolerant, but are still at risk in cold weather. Shorthaired pets feel the cold faster because they have less protection, and short-legged pets may become cold faster because their bellies and bodies are more likely to come into contact with snow-covered ground. Pets with diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, or hormonal imbalances (such as Cushing's disease) may have a harder time regulating their body temperature, and may be more susceptible to problems from temperature extremes. The same goes for very young and very old pets. If you need help determining your pet's temperature limits, consult your veterinarian.

Provide choices: Just like you, pets prefer comfortable sleeping places and may change their location based on their need for more or less warmth. Give them some safe options to allow them to vary their sleeping place to adjust to their needs.

Stay inside. Cats and dogs should be kept inside during cold weather. It's a common belief that dogs and cats are more resistant than people to cold weather because of their fur, but it's untrue. Like people, cats and dogs are susceptible to frostbite and hypothermia and should be kept inside. Longer-haired and thick-coated dog breeds, such as huskies and other dogs bred for colder climates, are more tolerant of cold weather; but no pet should be left outside for long periods of time in below-freezing weather.

Make some noise: A warm vehicle engine can be an appealing heat source for outdoor and feral cats, but it's deadly. Check underneath your car, bang on the hood, and honk the horn before starting the engine to encourage feline hitchhikers to abandon their roost under the hood.

Check the paws: Check your dog's paws frequently for signs of cold-weather injury or damage, such as cracked paw pads or bleeding. During a walk, a sudden lameness may be due to an injury or may be due to ice accumulation between his/her toes. You may be able to reduce the chance of ice ball accumulation by clipping the hair between your dog's toes.



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